

[18th November 1948]

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE-EXTAPPERS.*

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Deputy President, Sir, the distress to which the tappers have been subjected to on account of the prohibition introduced by the Government has attracted wide public attention. Sir, the Tamilnad Congress Committee early in October in a resolution stated that tens of thousands of toddy tappers have lost their employment and they have been rendered destitute and they asked the Government to come to the assistance of the displaced toddy tappers immediately. Sir, many meetings were held in the City of Madras and other places and even the Mayor opened a fund for the relief of the ex-tappers. Their number is under dispute. But the Collector of Tirunelveli stated at a public meeting that in two taluks alone 60,000 and more tappers were unemployed on account of the prohibition in that district. A Leader about this, quoting this number and the speech, was written by a very prominent daily paper in Madras and the Government have not chosen to contradict the statement that 60,000 tappers were put out of employment in two taluks in Tirunelveli. Sir, I am not surprised at the figures, because the revenue from the auction of toddy shops was about Rs. 12 crores and surely toddy must have been taken at least from a few crores of trees, to enable the Government to get a revenue of Rs. 12 crores. The contractor and the owner of the trees also derived much benefit. And to tap the crores of trees there must be at least a few lakhs of toddy tappers. Therefore, not tens of thousands but a few lakhs of persons have been thrown out of employment. This is due, Sir, to the fact that the Government took a step and as a consequence of that step there is this unemployment. The unemployment of toddy tappers is only part of the problem of unemployment in this Province. I have again and again impressed upon the Government the imperative necessity of making a list of the unemployed in this Province and putting them into the various classes, namely, the educated, the uneducated, skilled, unskilled, industrial, agricultural, etc. But the Government would do nothing of the sort. Now that lakhs of people have been thrown out of employment by their action there has been public agitation. I ask this Government whether they were justified in throwing these people out of employment in order to prosecute or implement a socio-political idea which they had in view. So I must say before I make any further observations on this problem that it is not at all my object in asking for an adjournment of the House to discuss this problem, to discredit the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition. Sir, I admire his great sincerity and he is one of those Hon. Ministers who are never concerned with patronage or the exercise of power. He believes in service. I do not think he is responsible personally for the situation which has been created and I can say that he has been doing his best but his best is very little, because throughout this Province after the Congress Government took charge there have been falling production and rising prices. Instead of stepping up production, instead of encouraging industries and instead of making agricultural development,

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every step this Government has taken from time to time after it entered office, has only contributed to unemployment. This is a very serious step, Sir, which they took in extending Prohibition to all the districts. Sir, I am informed, and I think my information is correct that the Central Government was against total Prohibition at the present time. I am also told, Sir, that the Ministers would like to have had the introduction of total Prohibition a little later, but the rank file would not allow them to do it and the Ministers would not resign, but kept on to their places. The result was that total Prohibition was introduced although in other Provinces in this Country they were wiser and did not introduce total Prohibition. Only this morning I read in the paper that the Cochin Government, although it is a Congress Government and although that Government believes in Prohibition, decided not to extend Prohibition all at once to the whole of the State for the reason that they could not afford to lose that money. Now this Government have lost over Rs. 20 crores. It is a very huge sum to lose and they were advised not to take this step before finding the revenue to replace it. And the revenue to replace it is expected in the Province to be derived through the Sales-tax falls on the poor man, the commonman, because it is not a Sales-tax but a Purchasers-tax. Therefore, Sir, they should have waited. Not only did they not wait, but they rushed into this Prohibition knowing fully well that they were losing revenue without taking into consideration that they were subjecting a very large number of poor people, the toddy tappers to distress and unemployment. A daily Paper in writing a Leader on the subject said: 'A human problem has been forced by the enforcement of complete Prohibition throughout the Province. But there is little evidence that the Government have not anticipated it, much less made plans to tackle it.' I say, Sir, this Government's policy by which lakhs of people have been thrown out of employment ought to be condemned and condemned strongly and I am sure it is condemned very widely by the public at large. We in South India or people in any part of this country would not like to encourage drunkenness. If people do not drink or get drunk many people would be glad. Personally I would be very pleased if nobody got drunk. But I am not against drinking. I am not sure, Sir—although I may say that I am a perfect teetotaler myself and I have not tasted drink for many many years—whether we should prevent drinking at all, because only the other day I read that toddy contains vitamin B.

"It appears that in an island called Pleasant Island near Australia, which is put under the control of Australia by the League of Nations, there was heavy drinking and they stopped toddy drinking and drunkenness. The result was increased infant mortality, because the mother who did not take toddy, which she was accustomed to take, could not supply the infant with the B vitamin from her breast. This was ascertained and people were allowed to drink toddy. Sir, I am not a doctor of medicine to give an expert opinion whether there is B vitamin in toddy, but surely all over the world people drink some kind of alcohol and surely

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from the beginning of the history of the human race they have been doing it. Total Prohibition has failed in America, it has failed in Sweden and other places where it was attempted. And in spite of the great efforts made by this Government, they have not succeeded in enforcing Prohibition. Human nature being what it is, without education preceding the policy of Prohibition will not succeed. This Government have put the cart before the horse. They first passed an Act for Prohibition instead of trying to educate the people that drunkenness is bad. Now this Government have out-heroded herod. They have done what other people in other Provinces, as good as they—and I think they are great patriots in charge of the Government of the country in the other Provinces and States—would not do. What those Governments would not do this Government have done in extending total Prohibition and losing revenues to the extent of crores of rupees, which could have been utilized for the benefit of the poor man and for nation-building activities. There is a proverb, Sir, that fools rush in where angels fear to tread. I am not attributing or using this phraseology to the Government of this Province. But I say they should not rush into places where angels fear to tread. This policy of theirs has in its wake created so much distress and unemployment in this Province. Even in Pakistan where they stand for Prohibition—you know Muslims do not drink—they have not introduced Prohibition yet. In introducing Prohibition the Government have not only lost revenue, but they have created so much unemployment and distress. Further than that they have created a sustained cottage industry for illicit distillation. The only thing the Government have succeeded in doing by introducing Prohibition is to create a cottage industry in illicit distillation. With what result?

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“ The result is that not only the men are drinking but the women and children are also drinking at home. What do they drink? They drink unhealthy, dirty alcohol illicitly distilled and not toddy. Sir, the Hon. the Minister this morning gave figures and stated that month after month they are prosecuting about 5,000 people. But, Sir, how many thousands have escaped prosecution by bribing the officials who check these offences. Are they all angels who will not take any bribe but will go on detecting the offences? Sir, this is demoralising the public. You are not enforcing Prohibition. But, at the same time, you have created unemployment and distress.

“ Now, Sir, the Hon. Minister, Dr. Gurubatham, speaking at a public meeting—it is also published in the papers—is reported to have said that the Government have taken steps to find employment for them and that they have issued an appeal to the big employers of labour to employ the ex-tappers in preference to others. Sir, with all respect to the Hon. Minister, if this reported speech is correct, it is very wrong for him to say, ‘ Displace other people already employed and put in the ex-tappers ’. Instead of displacing one man and trying to put another man, what he should do is to step up production and to create employment for all people. The tappers are unskilled labourers. Their skill is

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only to get up the trees. Therefore, employers in big industries cannot easily employ them. Sir, instead of this appeal which the popular Government are making publicly day after day and even hour after hour, they should try to create conditions to employ more people. These appeals have produced no effect whatsoever. What should they do? They should encourage private industry so that there may be more scope for employment. As I said in the beginning, Sir, this problem of the ex-tappers is only part of the problem of unemployment. I hope, the Government, instead of going round all over the Province and asking people to displace persons already employed in order to employ the ex-tappers, would do well to encourage industry so that all unemployed people may be absorbed. A list of such unemployed in this Province should be made and they should be absorbed in the various industries.

“ Now, Sir, I want to make this suggestion. I do not know whether this suggestion will be acceptable. My suggestion to-day is, go back and allow these people to tap the trees and to drink toddy. I ask them, in going back, to ration toddy because I realize that unrationed drinking has a tendency to lead to drunkenness. Therefore, I ask them to ration toddy. Sir, the Hon. the Leader of the House took pride and it was appreciated all over the country and outside this country that we had a perfect rationing system for foodstuffs in this Province. I quite agree. This Government has introduced a rationing system for foodstuffs and has carried it out very well and the Hon. Dr. Rajan has done very well as its head and he has been congratulated. Similarly, now it is possible for this Government who have got so much experience of rationing to introduce rationing for toddy so that we may not lose the revenue and the toddy tappers may be re-employed and the men engaged in the trade may also get some profit. Sir, this Government are now going back from decontrol to control. Whether it is decontrol or control, the common man must be assured of honest remunerative employment. In the first instance, I ask the Government to go back on their policy. After all, if they do not wish to stand on false prestige and if they are wise, they can go back just as they are going back to recontrol of foodstuffs and allow toddy to be tapped and drunk under a rationing system. I think this is the only method that will be successful. So, I make this appeal to the Government. If people do not get drunk, I should be happy. But it has been impossible to do so by introducing prohibition without educating the people and as I said before, Government should not put the cart before the horse. If you educate the public, then this Prohibition will take care of itself.

“ Sir, one more observation I want to make is this. Sir, it has been complained by Ministers and others that there is not public co-operation in this matter at all. In Prohibition, the public are not co-operating with the Government. Why? One reason given is that the large number of Congress gentlemen who dedicated their lives to the service of the country before the British Government left, do not contract the masses now but contract

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the Ministers. (Laughter.) That may be one reason. The second reason is that the public know fully well that this Prohibition in the manner in which the Government is doing it will be unsuccessful and that policy will only result in a cottage industry for illicit distillation."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—
 " Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I am in entire agreement with Dr. John so far as the main purpose of his motion is concerned. But, I am sorry I must dissent from him so far as the reasons he gave for his motion are concerned. So far as Prohibition is concerned, two things are clear, namely, the necessity and the utility of Prohibition. Now at this time, to say that public co-operation has been lacking for this scheme of prohibition is, to say the least, not in conformity with facts. Sir, the prohibition scheme has been acclaimed as a very good and salutary measure and as one that goes a great way to the relief of the miseries of thousands of families. Therefore, I think it is unnecessary at this time of the day to canvass for the benefits of Prohibition. Because it has failed in other countries, we cannot say that it is going to fail here also. It has already proved successful in this part of the country. We must distinguish between other countries and our country. Conditions here are such that Prohibition is found to succeed as it has already succeeded. Well, Sir, much has been said about the loss of revenue. But, I say it is not loss in revenue but only an avoidance of and a refusal to receive tainted money. Sir, every pie that we get from excise is tainted money. It is money which we get from the miseries of the people and from the sins committed on the people. It is the duty of the Government to see that they do not get even a single pie from such sources. I would even call it 'blood money'. Therefore, Sir, it cannot be said to be loss of revenue. On the other hand, the Government is morally right in refusing to accept even a single pie from such sources.

" Sir, we know that Prohibition has a salutary effect. Thousands of families have been ruined on account of drink. Prohibition is the only way by which we can relieve those people from their miseries and make them conserve what little they earn for their families. My hon. Friend, Dr. John, said that after Prohibition has been introduced, people are drinking unwholesome liquors which are illicitly distilled. Sir, the Advisers' regime when they suspended the Prohibition Act said 'Because there is illicit distillation and because offences on account of illicit distillation are mounting high, we are suspending the operation of the Prohibition Act.' But, Sir, we said then that it was not the correct policy. It is the duty of the Government to find out ways and means and to set up proper machinery to detect these crimes and to bring the offenders to book. If there is illicit distillation, it is the duty of the Government to find out ways and means to check those people engaged in it so that it may be completely rooted out.

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“ Well, Sir, as a matter of fact, there is a real danger with regard to these unemployed people. I do agree that the Government must find out some employment for them. I do not think that by merely employing some of them as menial servants in the various departments, Government will solve the problem. The proper way is to give them employment to which they are accustomed. They are accustomed to toddy tapping. How are you going to make these people take to other sources of employment? It is absolutely impossible. I desire to make one important suggestion and I have been pleading for this ever since Prohibition was introduced—and I would appeal to the Government to consider this suggestion most earnestly. I know this suggestion has been considered in certain districts. My suggestion is this. Allow these palmyra trees and coconut trees to be tapped for the purpose of sweet juice so that jaggery may be manufactured out of it. For instance, in Tirunelveli, jaggery is manufactured out of sweet juice and is exported to Ceylon and other places. From Chittoor district also, it is being exported. The other day, the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition said that sweet juice will be allowed to be tapped only on co-operative basis. You are restricting the tapping of sweet juice of either palmyra trees or coconut trees only to members of co-operative societies. Instead of that, if you allow freely the tappers to tap sweet juice for the purpose of manufacture of jaggery, this problem of unemployment of the tappers will be completely solved. If you allow tappers to take these trees for the manufacture of jaggery, the problem of unemployment will be solved; there is wide scope for the marketing of this jaggery. I know as a matter of fact, the Department of the Director of Industries has evolved a particular system for the preparation of white sugar from the sweet juice as a cottage industry. That method to prepare white sugar should also be popularized amongst those tappers. Then, this question of unemployment will completely vanish and those who are now unemployed will be engaged in tapping. Sir, the reason given for the insistence on the formation of co-operative societies for the purpose of tapping sweet juice is that private tapping is susceptible to illicit distillation.

“ Sir, Government must appoint a proper machinery for detecting persons who abuse this licence for tapping sweet juice. Simply because there is the possibility of illicit distillation, or an abuse of the permission to tap sweet juice from these palmyra trees, Government should not throw out of employment nearly a lakh of people. The only solution to the problem before us now is to allow these tappers to employ themselves in their usual avocation, in a slightly modified form, by tapping these trees for sweet juice and at the same time, keeping a strict watch over these persons to prevent any abuse of the privileges granted to them, bring the offenders to book and punish them. In my opinion, Sir, that is the only way to relieve the unemployment amongst the ex-tappers, and finding out alternate sources or avenues of employment is not going to succeed. Further, by allowing these

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people to tap these trees for sweet juice, you will also be improving the wealth of the country. Otherwise all this sweet juice goes to waste. If, however, this sweet juice is tapped and converted into jaggery and the jaggery thus produced is exported, you will be getting more wealth into the country. Especially now when you want more wealth, you should not be a party to this huge waste of the sweet juice.

"Then, Sir, much was said about co-operation. Many of these villagers, many of these tappers, would not have even heard of the name of co-operation. How are you going to make them realize the benefit of co-operation? Are you going to wait till these co-operative societies are formed, in order to give relief to these ex-tappers? I know, Sir, even some Congress leaders have expressed the opinion that insistence on the formation of co-operative societies for the purpose of giving relief to these ex-tappers should not be made at this stage. You may encourage the formation of these co-operative societies, but you should not insist on them.

"I hope, Sir, Government will give their sincere consideration to this aspect of the question, and allow these tappers to employ themselves in their usual avocation for purposes of tapping sweet juice, thus giving them employment, and also by the way contribute to the enrichment of the Province."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, it is not my business to intervene in this debate. But I was provoked to do so, by the speech of my learned friend Dr. John. He made so many statements which cannot be supported either by science or by knowledge of facts. He began his argument with the theory that toddy contains Vitamin B. I do not know under what authority he made that statement. Can you ever imagine the amount of Vitamin B in toddy? And the problem whether Vitamin B could exist as such in toddy, and when that toddy is drunk, would become useful to the human system, has not been explained even by Prof. Haldane, to whom Dr. John made a reference. If a person takes four or five casks of toddy in an evening, he may get perhaps a milligram of vitamin B from it. Therefore, Sir, I may tell you that this argument of the existence of vitamin B in toddy, is a very precious invention of perpetual drunkards, to justify their habitual drunkenness. To say that toddy contains vitamin B is really astonishing. And what is more, to say that this vitamin passes from the mother through her breast-milk to the baby, and that baby gets that vitamin B, is perhaps even more baffling to truth. I was really amused when Dr. John made that statement. But for the fact that he claimed that he is not a drunkard, and that he has become a perfect teetotaler, I should have taken him to be a person always used to drinking. Even a man like him would not have made an argument of the kind above, in such a vehement way as he did.

"And then, Sir, I cannot understand when he says that this introduction of complete prohibition is a socio-political experiment. I do not know where on earth this thing gained currency, except

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perhaps a reputed newspaper which has continued to harp upon this phraseology. I may at once say, that it is neither a social nor a political experiment, nor is it a socio-political experiment. It is really nothing of that sort. It is plain commonsense argument, a thing which has been accepted in this country from ages past. Dr. John wants education to prevent people from drinking. Here are the people who have been long alive to the dangers of drinking, and here is the society, whatever its defects may be, which is still alive to the fact that drunkenness is an offence. No decent man would ever think of exhibiting himself in public as a drunkard. In fact one of the very famous arguments advanced by one Englishman was 'Have you ever seen people in India get drunk as you have seen in England?' I said, 'I have not.' Therefore I say that our people, at least very many of them, do not drink at all, and even the very few that get themselves drunk do not drink to the extent of exhibiting themselves drunk in the streets. Society as such in India thinks that drunkenness is an offence, a crime against society. Leave alone the political aspect of it. It is true it is socially bad to exhibit oneself as a drunkard. It is not the custom in this country to drink in public, as it is the custom in many other countries where drinking forms part of a social custom. Even in the best society, or even in the worst society, we do not have this drunkenness as a social custom. And the few that have it do so under the cover of some other system, and that is exactly where the social experiment, or the political experiment does not come in.

"Then there was the question of the people of the Government coming in. That is really a thing to which I want to draw the attention of Dr. John. Sir, I may remind you, that we as a party for the last thirty years have struggled with Prohibition at the forefront of our fight. In fact most of the battles with the British Government have been fought on the basis of this Prohibition policy, till we attained freedom. And we have now attained freedom. Is it not the first duty, the consistent duty, the honest duty of any party that has fought for freedom on the basis of Prohibition, to introduce Prohibition as the first Act of its Government? It stands to reason that we should take up this reform first. Dr. John really made a strange revelation when he said, that somebody did not want it, and we have forced this Prohibition on them, etc. Nothing of the sort. Only some such suggestion was made by the Prime Minister of India in a private talk to us, as to whether we shall not postpone this introduction of complete Prohibition for a few months, in view of some financial considerations of the Government of India. One of the reasons that he gave was that this Prohibition would inflate the market by throwing about Rs. 17 crores of money into the poor man's pocket. But we who are administering this Province stand committed to this Prohibition policy, for the last so many years, and if there is one programme to which all parties in this Province are agreed, unanimously, it is this Prohibition policy. Therefore we have begun with our programme, and we have enforced it.

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“ More than all this, there is one other fact which Dr. John must remember. We as Government were the people who procured toddy, and created shops for it, made innocent people addicted to this habit of drinking, and made the poorest of the poor pay the tax. The man who worked in the fields from morning to evening, would come homeward with a few coppers in his pocket, but on the way enter into a toddy shop maintained by the Government, and there part with the few coppers in his possession in lieu of a bottle or two of toddy, and go home, starving his children and wife, and himself becoming a beast, beating his wife and children, in his intoxicated state. I ask, whose is the moral responsibility for the grave crime against society that has been so long perpetrated by Government? Is it not the honest duty of any Government to say that ‘ We shall not have it ’? and particularly so of a Government which in the name of the Congress voted for Prohibition in all its struggles in the last thirty years? I submit, Sir, that it is neither a social nor a political experiment. It is just common justice to the poor man, and any honest Government should do that first and foremost. Therefore, these catch slogans do not count. As the Government have the moral responsibility for having induced the poor man to part with his few coppers, in order to enrich the coffers of Government, it stands to reason that we have now to justify our existence as a Government in the eyes of the world, by this very Act of ours, i.e., the introduction of complete Prohibition. I thought at first that Dr. John was talking against Prohibition. But I was glad to find he spoke in favour of it. The adjournment motion was for the purpose of considering ways and means to provide the ex-tappers with employment in other avenues. I would very much have wished Dr. John to have joined the many organizations that are now at work, to offer their help to these ex-tappers. If Dr. John had come with a helping hand, by offering them a thumping donation from his pocket to these relief organizations to help these ex-tappers, I should have been very much pleased. I remember the case of one poor lady working single-handed in Mylapore in a coconut thope, going about begging for money, and trying to give relief to these people. If people go about offering some such help to these ex-tappers, at least temporarily—for they will soon get employed,—to the 5,000 ex-tappers in the City of Madras—it would have been a very glorious thing. And there would not have been any need for this adjournment motion at all. My hon. Colleague, the Minister for Firka Development, will tell you exactly what we have done in this matter. I intervened only because Dr. John had gone off the mark clearly by diverting into matters that do not form the subject of the adjournment motion under discussion.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Sir, my object in rising now is not to talk about Prohibition, or its ethics, but only to plead on behalf of the ex-tappers, and to request Government to take measures to relieve the prevailing unemployment amongst them. It may be remembered that on August 13, a question was

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put by me to the Hon. Minister in charge of Firka Development, asking for certain particulars regarding ex-tappers in the whole of this Province, in the districts where Prohibition had been introduced. At that time, Madras and seven other districts had not come under Prohibition. And the Hon. Minister was good enough to give an approximate figure of the number of these ex-tappers, as 79,000. When the Government of a Province embark on a reform of the type of Prohibition, or the abolition of drinking, the abolition of an avocation in which a number of people rightly or wrongly were employed, should they not have some plans to see that these people who were eking out their daily living honestly in that trade are provided for in some way? Would it have been difficult for Government with the army of District Prohibition Staff they have, to have collected data as to the number of ex-tappers in the whole Presidency? It was easy, Sir, now if the number was only 79,000. Even taking it that there is a lakh of people among ex-tappers Government should not have found it difficult to provide some alternative employment for these ex-tappers. I put a pointed question to the Hon. Minister this morning whether cases of illicit tapping or illicit distillation were more. I have read the monthly report on the working of Prohibition, published by Government. Invariably in many districts, there are no cases of illicit tapping. If at all there is to be illicit tapping, it is the ex-tappers that must engage themselves in it. All cannot get up a tree. However habituated to toddy drinking, it is not all that can get up a tree and tap toddy. These people have been more honest than those who have been indulging in illicit distillation. Should not Government take that into account and do something to relieve unemployment. The only thing that has been done is the organizing of 482 societies for the manufacture of jaggery. Is that the only method of employment for them? My hon. Friend, Mr. Ibrahim Sahib, asked why the privilege of tapping sweet toddy should be confined to co-operative societies. If illicit tapping is to be controlled, that is the only method of doing it. If tapping of sweet toddy is thrown open to all, there will be many cases of illicit tapping. That is one method of employment that the Government are trying. I ask, Sir, why not colonization schemes be tried and lands given to these toddy tappers on patta. Most of the toddy tappers are well-built and are strong physically. They know only the art of tapping. But if lands are given to them and if they are asked to cultivate them, I am sure they will earn their honest living. I would like the Government to find out the number of tappers in each district who are unemployed and set apart certain pieces of land for them to cultivate. I know, Sir, these tappers have been more honest and law-abiding than those who are indulging in illicit distillation. In this City, the Hon. Minister for Firka Development has been interesting some social service organizations with the affording of relief to these ex-tappers. So far so good. But we are thereby only encouraging, what in famine-stricken areas is called, the dole mentality. All that these people want is honest work and not doles. It is demoralizing to them to depend on doles. They have been living an honest

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life, it may be by tapping. Is it impossible in this City of Madras to find work for four or five thousand ex-tappers? It should be possible if the Government would go about it seriously.

“ Sir, the fact is that the time of the Hon. Minister for Firka Development is more taken up with the enforcement of Prohibition. The enforcement of Prohibition has raised many difficulties and most of his time is taken up in coping with them. I wish that the Hon. Minister, Dr. Rajan, who is in charge of employment exchanges takes up the work of finding employment for these ex-tappers.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ May I inform the hon. Member that my department has already taken cognizance of the matter. It has registered almost all the tappers who are willing to have their names registered. We have also placed some of them in employment.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ I am very grateful to the Hon. Minister for the information. I would like him to take over this subject and relieve the hon. Minister for Firka Development of this work. As this is a question of finding employment for these unemployed people, it should be possible for his department which is in touch with the employment agencies to find some employment for them and enable them to earn an honest living.

“ Sir, I do not know whether I will be in order, although the hon. the Leader of my Party has set an example by wandering into topics which are not specially germane to this discussion. We have certain views about enforcement of Prohibition. This morning the Hon. Minister for Firka Development gave us some figures about illicit distillation. I would like him to examine those figures. These cases of illicit distillation are generally more in areas where the excise staff is in charge of enforcement. Sir, the excise staff cannot get out of their old groove. Committees have reported, but no action has been taken. They have suggested that the police should be entrusted with enforcement work. I now hear that it is proposed to entrust non-officials with the enforcement of Prohibition. I hope the information is wrong. Whatever grievances we may sometimes have against the police, they are the people who are administering law and order. In areas where the police have been entrusted with the enforcement of Prohibition there are what are called Prohibition police stations and ordinary police stations. I do not know why, if the Government feel that Prohibition is such an important reform that should be carried out, they should not treat offences against Prohibition as offences against society, as in the cases of other offences, and why they should have police stations for Prohibition and ordinary police stations separately. Sir, I would like that the report of the Prohibition Enquiry Committee is published by the Government and that the Committee's recommendations are implemented even though it costs a little more.

“ Sir, we have an amelioration department in every district. The only thing the officers of this department are doing is perhaps

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the conducting of a few jaggery societies and milk societies and so on. Why not these amelioration officers act as employment agencies and find work for these people? It should be possible for them also, when they go about, if they find lands available, to settle these people there. Amelioration does not merely consist in starting co-operative societies and running them. It is only one of the forms of amelioration. Sir, when co-operative officials are put in charge of any work, they think that the co-operative way is the only way. Though I am a co-operator myself, I know there are other ways as well. If we depend on the co-operative way alone, many of the reforms cannot be carried out in a reasonable time. Sir, I would like the Hon. Minister for Firka Development to tackle this problem of enforcement, remembering always that these tappers have been honest and law-abiding, and that if illicit distillation persists, it is because there are others behind the distillers. It is no pleasure for the poor man to take the risk and distill. There are others behind him. Why not stringent punishments be imposed on illicit distillers? If there are more cases of illicit distillation in an area, treat it just as you would treat it if there were more cases of crime and have the punitive police. Make the people responsible. Make them feel that the enforcement of Prohibition is an important matter. If voluntary response is not forthcoming, I think the Government will be justified in getting the measure enforced by making the people of the locality responsible for any crime against Prohibition.

“ Sir, as I said, I have wandered from the main topic. I would implore the Hon. Minister to pay a little more attention to this problem of unemployment so that those unfortunate ex-tappers who have been law-abiding and who have not taken to illicit-tapping; which they can easily do especially where there are so many coconut topes in the City and elsewhere, may be put on their legs and helped to earn an honest living. Not one method alone should be adopted, but as many methods as possible should be employed. It is to invite the attention of the Government to the seriousness of the question and the responsibility that rests on them to provide employment for those who have been thrown out of employment on account of this important reform that our party decided to table this adjournment motion. We know the Government have been doing their best; we want them to do more. We want them to take up this question seriously. Sir, there are also people who were engaged in other ways in this drink trade, as clerks or gumasthas purveying drink. All of them have been thrown out. Some employment must be found for these people also. Statistics relating to them can be easily gathered, because there is an army of Prohibition staff in the districts. It should not be difficult for them to collect the figures and send them to the Hon. Minister. A concerted policy should be adopted in which all the departments of the Government should assist and these poor people should be enabled to stand on their own legs. With these few words, I support the adjournment motion.”

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* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. Deputy President, I heard the Leader of the Opposition to say that toddy should be rationed. I do not know if he perhaps meant arrack also. He wanted toddy to be rationed. Let us take it so far. As he himself said earlier, this drink evil had been in the country for a very long time. That also I am willing to concede. With the advent of the British more and more of foreign liquors were brought into the country and the drink evil increased. So much so, our kind Missionary friends and British officers took up temperance work and they advised people to be temperate in their drink, to have what is called *mitha kudi* in Tamil. It is moderate drinking or as Dr. John would call it ‘rationed toddy drink’. This temperance propaganda was going on for a long time, but the drink evil also increased however, exceeding all expectations. During the Interim Ministry, Sri S. Muthia Mudaliyar had to purchase some motor-vans and appoint some propagandists to go out in the districts and do propaganda for ‘*mitha kudi*’. But ‘*kudi*’ did not decrease. It was only after the advent of the Congress Ministry and the passing of the Prohibition law that this drink evil has been stopped. No doubt this illicit distillation went on from the beginning, but it was because either the officials have not been capable or have been conniving at it. So rationing is no good and Prohibition should be total. I must remind my friend Dr. John that there is a group of people who have not taken to drink at any time; under modern conditions, however, they are also gradually getting into the drink habit; and unless this total prohibition is introduced here and now, there is danger of the non-drinking classes also becoming drunkards. He quoted the Government of India; but what did they say. ‘Having regard to the serious conditions existing in the country and out of it, you may go slow’, they said. They did not say ‘stop Prohibition’; neither did they say ‘*Mitha kudi*’; nor did they say that Prohibition might be introduced district by district. Our friend Dr. Rajan has explained it fully before you and I need not therefore dilate upon that point. Dr. John went a little further and said ‘these Ministers are good boys, all the twelve of them; they wanted to take the advice of the Government of India and postpone Prohibition for some time; but the rank and file would not leave them; they pressed the Ministers to have it and so they had to introduce total Prohibition.’ What did he mean by that? I may state before you that if the Ministers have taken the advice of the rank and file, that is thoroughly democratic. When it suits the Leader of the Opposition, he will abuse the Treasury Benches as dictators and self-willed people and so on and so forth; but now to suit his purpose, he says that the Ministers are not willing, but the rank and file have forced them. Yes, in such a good case, they have forced them and their view was willingly carried out. I do not give credit to Dr. John for saying that the Ministers are good boys and they were willing to take the advice of the Government of India. The Government of India did not stand in the way of total Prohibition, and so this kind of argument will not hold water.

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* The adjournment motion is about a specific subject but he has brought in all these points. The relevant point is that by this adjournment motion Dr. John wants that the toddy tappers should be found some employment. On the introduction of prohibition on the 2nd October, I too addressed a meeting at Tiruvottiyur; that was the sixth meeting I addressed that day. There the toddy tappers appealed to me to get some employment for them and I promised to help them. The Government also are taking some ameliorative measures, they are forming co-operative societies and helping the toddy tappers to get some job or other. Dr. Rajan has referred to the Employment Bureau; I have also gone to the Employment Bureau. There, everybody who is not employed is registered; also everybody who wants employees, his name also is registered; and whenever any employer wants employees, names are suggested for employment."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" There may be many registrations of the unemployed; but the question is whether anybody has been employed; if so, how many of them have been found employment? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The number will be given when the Hon. Minister makes his reply."

* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" I will advise Dr. John to go to the Employment Exchange office which is opposite to the Collector's office; if he makes a visit, I am sure he will be impressed with the work done there and he will stop talking about unemployment in this House. Well, apart from that, Sir, let me tell Dr. John that in my own district, several of the toddy tappers have taken to weaving; they have set up looms, they have applied for yarn and yarn is being given to them, and they are weaving cloths on the handlooms. I know several of the sellers and gumasthas have applied for cloth control licences, both retail and wholesale. Some of the toddy vendors have been made cloth retail dealers and some wholesale dealers. In that way, by slow degrees, these unemployed people are getting some employment. Again, if a toddy seller gets a wholesale dealer's cloth licence, he will employ a number of his former gumasthas in his own cloth shop. That way unemployment is being solved. Our friend Dr. John instead of speaking of the unemployment problem in this House on the adjournment motion can also help in this respect. After all, these toddy tappers are not the only unemployed; there are several others who are unemployed. For instance, during the second World War, a large number of Indians were recruited as soldiers and many of them have now come back. Have all of them been given employment by the Government? Some of them no doubt have settled on land; some settlements have been constructed at a huge cost for these people; but still many others have been left in the lurch and they are trying to go to the villages and find some employment or other for themselves. And because we have not found employment for all these toddy tappers, are you to say 'repeal prohibition, ration toddy' and all that? This kind of argument cannot be

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accepted. Sir, I deliberately oppose this adjournment motion; it cannot hold water. This motion has been brought forward only with a view to talk about the Government Benches for a little while in this discursive manner. On the plea of unemployment of these tappers, Dr. John complained that prohibition itself is wrong, that the Government were wrong in introducing it and suggested that rationing of drink should be introduced. In this connexion, I may say the Leader of the Opposition has given a compliment to the Ministry. He said 'you had decided to decontrol but now you are introducing control; you managed the control policy very well, so why not control prohibition also?' That way he paid a compliment to the Government, and wanted the introduction of control of drink. Sir, we, members of this House, are not carried away by such argument; probably, people sitting over there may be carried away by such argument. I oppose the motion."

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Sir, whatever sympathy one might have for this unemployment problem, I think the adjournment motion brought forward by my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, is not worthy of any support whatsoever. He has let the cat out of the bag by giving reasons in support of his motion, i.e., that it has got a political tinge about it. He says we must reverse our policy with regard to prohibition. Sir, the entire electorate has given its mandate in favour of prohibition and if you read the papers of 21st August 1948, you will notice there were only two members who wanted the postponement of the extension of prohibition to the other eight districts; all the rest wanted the extension of prohibition. That reflected the opinion and the judgment of the electorate; and I am very glad to hear from the members who insisted upon extension at that time that prohibition is a complete success in their districts. I may confess that at that time I was one of those who were nervous and wanted some caution in the extension of the scheme. On account of the existence of the Hyderabad problem then in my district, prohibition was to a certain extent a failure, but after the cessation of trouble there, the position has improved a lot. There was some slight opposition to the extension of prohibition in my district of Bellary because there were some five or six gangsters or hooligans were defying the Act in order to defeat it. I think, Sir, they can be booked under the Public Safety Act or under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or else, the Prohibition Act itself may be so amended as to bring such people to book. If that is done, I think, prohibition will be a complete success in a very short time in the Bellary district also. That is my opinion; I have also mentioned it to some of the Ministers; that is also the opinion of the conference which meets monthly in Bellary, i.e., that the Prohibition Act should be suitably amended so as to bring into its purview such people as definitely transgress its provisions. If that is done in the case of five or six people in Adoni and Bellary, I am quite sure it will be a success in Bellary district as elsewhere.

"As regards unemployment, I have every sympathy with those who have been thrown out of employment, and in our district we

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have been trying to do our best to provide for them. Recently, in regard to applications for cloth licences, we recommended 20 at least out of a total of 220 should be given to the ex-toddy tappers; that way we are doing our best. I spoke to the Minister for Prohibition about it; you too have got a good opinion of the Hon. Gentleman as I too. He is the Minister concerned with this problem of providing employment and he has every sympathy for these people. In Malabar where prohibition was introduced several years ago, about 20,000 people were thrown out of employment and they have all been absorbed in other occupations since. Similarly, in each district, we are trying our best to provide employment for them. Even yesterday some ladies and gentlemen who have been thrown out of employment met us. In many cases we have also succeeded in our attempts. Not merely the Government and the Employment Bureau, but even Dr. John himself with his tremendous influence in the City of Madras, can find and provide employment for some of these people. So also Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and others who are influential. When, therefore, the Government are doing their best in the matter, to argue that prohibition should be reversed as a policy is certainly not a proper suggestion and is too uncharitable a suggestion to make especially when the whole Legislature as a body has voted for it with the exception of a few members of the Opposition and so far as the rationing of toddy is concerned, I have never heard of it. I oppose the motion."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—“ Mr. Deputy President, the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition has not been answered. The Government knew that the introduction of prohibition will release a tremendous volume of man-power which can be harnessed for purposes of increased production especially now when the cry is for increased production. The party in power which voted for all out and full prohibition must have known it and I wish to ask them: ‘ Did you take into consideration the number of men that will be released from employment and will be thrown on the unemployment rolls and did you take steps betimes to absorb them and to provide them with alternative employment.’ I want to know what the answer is; the fact of the matter, I fear, is that nobody gave a thought to it. Will the Hon. Minister in charge of Prohibition say whether at the time full prohibition in the Presidency was decided upon and voted by the party in power, he or the Government were apprised of the tremendous man-power that will be released from this employment? As published in the *Hindu*, did they take this fact into consideration and devise measures to provide them with suitable employment? Did they at all consider that question? That is the question that has been posed and that has yet to be answered. The hon. Member from Chingleput (Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar) suggested that they were putting them up as retailers. I say, Sir, the less said about it, the better. What will be the effect; you will be just displacing a trader already in the line from his occupation in the mercantile world in order to provide work for the ex-toddy tapper. Thus there is no point in saying that work has been found for him; you have

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displaced another person from his occupation. By what you do, you must not affect the labour problem in any way. You must provide them with employment without affecting the labour market of the day. There is no use of saying, we will give them lands to cultivate, when the effect of it will be that some other person will be ousted from his lands. That, I submit, is not the way to deal with such problems. It is the duty of the State to provide work for its citizens and when you provide work for one set of people, it must not displace another set of people engaged in a particular occupation. No doubt, it may be said that you have found employment for the ex-toddy tappers but what about the displaced persons? So, Sir, I am asking: Do you have a programme and did you take into account the problem of the displaced persons? What is the programme and was not the challenge made by the *Hindu* concerning that question? If so, have you disclosed that programme to anybody? There is no use saying that you have provided work to some people when the effect of it would be to displace some others from their occupation; we are in the dark about it. The Tamil Nad Congress Committee went furious over the question of unemployment in the Tinnevely district but what about the other districts where the problem is no less acute? What did you do for them and did you raise your little finger for them at the proper time? Let it not be said that all this is said because it is the duty of the Opposition to expose and not to admire."

* THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Mr. Deputy President, many points have been raised during the course of the debate this afternoon and many of them have been answered by my Hon. Friend Dr. Rajan who tackled the medical side of the question to some extent and I wish he had done it a little more. The question has been raised whether the Government took into consideration the number of toddy tappers that will be thrown out of employment at that time. We had taken the whole statistics. In the month of June itself and later on before October also we took statistics in nine districts going dry. The total number comes to about 84,000 and there has been a correction with regard to one district. In my previous statement, I had said that West Godavari district had 24,000 but later on in October when the statistics were taken, we found it was not 24,000 but 12,000 and the total number of toddy tappers thrown out of employment is 84,320 and for Madras City it is 4,598 which figures has been again and again questioned both in the Press and the platform but still we adhere to that figure."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the figures are for the whole Province?"

* THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"It is only for the nine districts that went dry this October. I do not have the figures for the districts that went dry previous to that."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What about the number of trees?"

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* THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—“ I am sorry, I am unable to give that information off-hand ; if the hon. Member puts a separate question, I can give him the answer.

“ Our experience during the last two years of the working of prohibition in the other 16 districts made us bold and we went ahead and took that step. We have a big staff, both for ameliorative work and for the enforcement of prohibition. The enforcement staff has not been quite adequate and we are trying our level best to make the staff complete. The suggestion has been made that this work should be handed over to the Police and that advice is being examined and we hope in the near future to hand over the whole question of enforcement to the Police. But I would like to correct an error and that is, that illicit distillation is more in the Excise districts than in the Police districts. In Salem district which is handed over entirely to the Police department, illicit distillation is greater than in any other districts where the Excise staff is working. But that does not prove anything. But still we are trying to hand over the whole thing to the hands of the Police and abolish this term ‘ Prohibition department ’ so that the country really goes dry. As I have already observed we are training in the Prohibition School in Madras, quite a large staff and when they are all ready, the Prohibition staff will be complete and would be able to exercise a greater amount of control over illicit distillation. In this regard, as I have said before, our policy should not be merely punitive and we must have a constructive side. On the constructive side, we have for each district one Special Development Officer and we had up to October five Assistant Development Officers or one Assistant Development Officer for each division which we have cut down to two for each district. He will be helped by one officer for each taluk. The function of these people is to organize co-operative societies for making jaggery and also for tackling the problem arising from the unemployment of ex-toddy tappers. One of their functions is to find out alternative employment. The criticism has been made that alternative employment is not suitable and that they should be made to prepare jaggery. But still attempts were made to provide alternative employment and many have been absorbed into weavers’ societies. There have been several weavers’ societies started for the benefit of ex-toddy tappers and they are all working satisfactorily. I cannot straightway give their number but there are several of them working. Wherever I go, even day before yesterday, when I went into the heart of Malabar and South Kanara districts, I took with me the Special Development Officers and Assistant Development Officers and the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies and tried to contact people down in the villages and have also explained to those officers that it is not sufficient for them to start co-operative societies but that they should tackle the problem on a rural reconstruction basis as Collector Morris is trying to do in some of the villages in Coimbatore and I have been trying to impress upon the officers of the Co-operative department the need for such an

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approach to this question. In my travels I have incurred the displeasure of some of my Congress friends because I would not give time to them to receive me and hear speeches from me and I have been going into the villages to find out for myself what is happening to these ex-toddy tappers and wherever I went I found that in the districts under prohibition for over one year, there was very little unemployment; there is still some problems in Tinnevely and we are tackling them. In fact there is a request by the department for the sanction of about nine Co-operative Inspectors to organize co-operative jaggery-making societies. There has been some opposition to co-operative societies taking to making jaggery. I have been trying to find out whether in places where these societies have been started, the tappers who have taken up the manufacture of jaggery, have been tapping illicit toddy. I am glad to tell the House that there have been only 25 cases so far in the whole Presidency that have come to our notice and so these societies are not giving us any trouble so far as illicit tapping is concerned. It has been suggested that people would like to have individual licences. But, Sir, as Mr. Suryanarayana Rao pointed out, under co-operative societies registered as such under the Co-operative Societies Act, we have got a certain amount of control and would be able to prevent illicit tapping. Under a system of individual licences, the Government feel that there may be illicit tapping. There have been many requests from the Andhra districts that we should not introduce jaggery-making there. The emphasis has been laid by many workers upon the fact that though it may work satisfactorily in the southern districts, it will not work in the Andhra districts, like Vivagapatam, Krishna and Guntur districts. But still I am studying the problem and if I can introduce jaggery-making in some of these places, I will be happy. There was the question raised about converting the juice into sugar. Though personally as a doctor who has been so much interested in nutrition, I would be interested in producing more jaggery which contains more nutrition than white sugar which does not have much nutrition but white sugar contains only carbohydrates—it is my personal feeling—but if the Government or the country feels that white sugar should be produced, I shall not object and put up a fight against it. My emphasis would be along that line. Mr. Gazana Nayak is here to organize some jaggery-making training centres in South India and we shall soon have five centres where proper training will be given to those people. It is not only jaggery that we are making, we are organizing co-operative societies for basket making, coir making, copra and weaver societies. Some mention has also been made about colonization schemes. There is a colonization scheme which has been undertaken in Salem district. Out here in Madras near Tambaram there is a large plot of land that was given to the ex-soldiers belonging to the Anglo-Indian community and it failed and they left it. We are offering it to the tappers of Madras as a colonization scheme. In many places we have started milk societies to which have been

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admitted many of the tappers and about thirty or forty societies have been started in the Province and working quite well and in Madras we have started our societies each admitting from 20 to 25 members and we are giving them loan without interest for the purpose of purchasing cows and from the sale of the milk we are deducting the capital until it is all cleared. As far as Madras is concerned, we have employed some of them as peons. The problem of Madras is really what troubles us very much and we have been trying to do our best to improve their condition.

“ Sir, as regards Madras City, Government are aware that the problem is slightly different from that in the mufassal. In the mufassal we are able to solve it one way or other. Many people have taken to agricultural labour and the mufassal people are accustomed to hard labour than the people in the City. So we are able to absorb them in road-making, tank digging and agricultural operations. But the people in the Madras City are not accustomed to it and they are not willing to take to this employment. Thus there are difficulties on both sides—on the sides of the employees and the employers. The employers do not find it economical to employ these people as they are not expert workers. Mr. John himself said that ‘they are not expert workers and so we should start industries.’ Sir, to start industries we want expert workers. Therefore, there is contradiction in the statement of Dr. John. Still we are trying to absorb them in smaller industries and will teach them various kinds of work involved in it. We are employing some people in cottage industries, and road-making and we are also teaching spinning to them. Some men have been employed as peons.

“ Special steps have been taken in Madras City to give relief to the ex-tappers and the ameliorative staff have been working hard to bring together different agencies in the common task of finding employment to the ex-tappers. The Employment Exchange has been contacting the employers of labour—Government and private—and trying to find jobs for them. About 2,500 ex-tappers in the Madras City have registered themselves in the Employment Exchange, of which 98 persons have been placed in employment. It is not an easy job to provide employment to all the ex-tappers as quickly as all of us may desire. It takes time. For one thing, the ex-tappers are untrained and unskilled workers who cannot take up any work assigned to them. They are also reluctant to take up road work and other coolie work. Employing firms also hesitate to take them as they are not trained workers. There are several difficulties in the way of the tappers being placed in various kinds of employment. Yet the problem is being solved in its own way. It is certainly a slow process but in course of time they will have to adjust themselves and be prepared to take up new kinds of work as well. The Chief Engineer, Highways, has issued instructions for the employment of these toddy tappers as gang coolies and in this way a considerable number of these men could be employed in course of time. When

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giving contracts, it is stipulated that a certain percentage of ex-toddy tappers should be taken for employment. As I said, milk co-operative societies have been already started. So far, about 100 ex-tappers have joined in these societies and it is expected that more will come later. Loans will be given to the members of the societies free of interest. We also propose to take the land in Nandambakkam village which was given up by the ex-service-men and settle some of the very needy ex-tappers there. Jaggery societies will also be formed for the benefit of these men on the outskirts of the Madras City as Kodambakkam, Tiruvottiyur, Sekkadu, etc. Representations were made to the Government that there was distress among the ex-tappers in the Madras City. I think this matter has been taken up.

"Sir, there has been a demand that Government should give doles to the ex-tappers. As Mr. Suryanarayana Rao pointed out, the Government also feel that it would demoralize the people. While Government have every sympathy for the ex-tappers and are prepared to give whatever assistance that is possible to place them in employment and to create conditions favourable for their resettlement, they consider that the question of giving doles to them is a question involving principle. In this task, various private organizations like the Y.M.C.A. and Women's Welfare Department are rendering useful work.

"Sir, I can assure the House that Government are alive to the situation and are taking all possible steps through various departments concerned and non-official organizations to give relief to such of the ex-tappers who need it and who are unable to adjust themselves otherwise. Sir, this problem is more acute in Malabar than in any other part of our Province. There also, we are solving the problem satisfactorily. Once again I assure the House that the Government are constantly aware of what is happening and I think with that assurance I request the hon. Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the motion."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, as per rules, I have got a right of reply and I will take only one minute for my speech.

"In replying to the debate, I do not want to take more time of the House. We are obliged to the Hon. Minister for Prohibition for the assurance given that the Government are trying to do their best to relieve the distress caused to ex-tappers on account of prohibition. I am glad that he has given the figure of ex-tappers thrown out of employment as 84,000 but on the other hand, on October 2, the Premier referring to the extension of prohibition in the Madras City and other districts, said that 'about 12,600 will be out of work and the Government are doing their best to solve the problem.' I am reading this from a sub-leader written in the 'Mail', dated 10th of this month, quoting the Premier's speech and put into inverted commas. It is on account of the difficulty to find the figures that the public are agitated over the question whether the Government are anxiously taking any steps to relieve the distress. The anxieties of the public

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would not have been so much if the Hon. Minister had come forward to give, on the floor of the House, the figures for those who are employed. It is stated that the Government are taking all steps but the Hon. Minister is unable to say how many were employed. Is it 100 or 1,000 or 2,000 out of these 8,000. I hope he will be able to collect the figures in due course and give an assurance to the public that a majority of these 8,000 people will be provided with employment in some avocation or other so that they and their families may not be put to undue hardship. I hope again that the Hon. Minister Dr. Gurubatham, for whom I paid a compliment for his sincerity of work, would do his best to collect the figures and see that they are employed within a short time and give that assurance to the public whose mind, I know, is agitated very much over the question of distress of ex-tappers thrown out of employment by the introduction of prohibition."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I suppose you are withdrawing it."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" There is no question of withdrawing it." The motion was talked out.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I now adjourn the House till 11 a.m. to-morrow."

VI.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

(1) Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 3411, Home, dated 14th September 1948, making amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

(2) Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 3511, Home, dated 20th September 1948, making amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

(3) Notification appended to G.O. No. 1655, L.A., dated 3rd September 1948, regarding the constitution of the Melapalayam Municipality.

(4) Report of the Madras Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee, 1946, and G.O. No. 829, Finance, dated 25th August 1948, containing orders thereon.

(5) Notification appended to G.O. Ms. No. 158, L.A., dated 12th August 1948, regarding inclusion of 37 villages transferred from the Polavaram taluk in the West Godavari District Board.

(6) Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 2642, Home, dated 12th July 1948, making amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.